

SARAH E. EDWARDS.

JUNE 3, 1898.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STALLINGS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1280.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1280) granting a pension to Sarah E. Edwards, have considered the same and respectfully report as follows:

The claimant's late husband, William B. Edwards, was a sergeant in Company A, First United States Dragoons, and served from August 3, 1833, to May 23, 1835. He was granted a pension by a private act of the Thirty-third Congress at \$8 per month, beginning January 1, 1850, on account of injury of left knee, alleged to have been caused by being thrown from his horse in the line of his duty. This pension was afterwards increased to \$15 from June 6, 1866, by special act approved July 27, 1868. Subsequently the pension was increased by the Pension Bureau to \$18 per month, beginning June 4, 1872, and to \$24 per month, beginning November 30, 1875.

The soldier died August 18, 1878, and his widow filed a claim for pension, declaring that the injury of knee caused his death. Her claim was rejected, however, on the ground that the alleged cause of death having been incurred in time of peace, prior to March 4, 1861, there was no provision of law under which she could be pensioned.

After the passage of the Indian war service-pension act of July 27, 1892, she made application thereunder, but her claim was rejected on the ground that the soldier did not serve in any of the wars mentioned in that act. She married the soldier in 1868.

Your committee have given the facts careful consideration, but fail to find sufficient ground upon which to base a recommendation favorable to the bill. No war service appears to have been rendered by the soldier, and whatever disability of the leg he may have suffered as the result of a fall from his horse was compensated for by the allowance of a generous rate of pension beginning in 1850 and continuing until his death, twenty-eight years later. The claimant was not his wife during the time of his service, but married him many years after his discharge. There is no definite proof that the injury for which he was pensioned caused his death, and there are no special circumstances of merit or distress surrounding the case.

The bill is therefore returned with the recommendation that it do lie upon the table.